

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, October 25. 1709.

HAVING undertook to preach to you a little—*as I call it*; I am upon explaining and proving my Text Doctrines, and the formal Part of the Pulpit Work I may omit—But you'll find them in Substance, if you miss them in Name; I have laid down my Proposition thus;

Plague, Famine, and Blood, either have been since the Revolution, now are, or probably quickly will be raging in every Nation in Europe.

I have been viewing the Footsteps of Divine Vengeance upon the greatest Part of Christendom in my last; it is but a light Prospect I can take of these Things——

But in Miniature you may read the Whole; *Ex Pede Herculem.* Ireland entirely wasted for three Years; the Frontiers of Germany ravag'd by the French, the Heart of it by various Armies; Franconia and Suabia by the French, first under Villars, next under Tallard; Bavaria burnt and laid waste, first by the Confederate Army, then by their cruel German Task-masters: Again, Hungary has been visited with Blood now almost 28 Years, from the Siege of Vienna in 1683, to this Day, first by the victorious Turks, then by the furious Germans—To day by the Cruelty of the Emperor, to morrow by the Ravages of Count Tekely; since that, by the barbarous Use of Conquest, enraging the Subjects, and obliging them to take Arms;

Arms; in which bloody War, unheard of Sackings, Burnings, and Murthers on either hand, have been their common Exercise—putting to Death whole Bodies of People, without Respect of Age, or Sex, or Condition, and that with unusual Barbarity—— This indeed has been the Reproach of the *Hungarians*, who have given but little Testimony of their being Protestants by the Article of Compassion——and the War between the *Germans* and those poor People has been rather a Butchery than a War—where, in their mutual Excursions, the whole Villages have been destroy'd, and the People cast into the Flames of their own Houses for several Miles together—*Transylvania* has also had a Portion of this bloody Draught—— Again, *Saxony* has been ravag'd by the *Swedes*, *Livonia* by the *Muscovite*, and *Courland* by the *Pole*; as for *Poland*, it has been a Scene of Blood and Misery for eight Years past, and how long it may continue so, GOD only knows.

We come now down to *France*, *Spain*, *Holland*, and *Britain*; *Spain* indeed has felt the Sword in her own Bowels, has been pierc'd thro' by Foreign Armies; Blood has been her Lot on every side—and she seems still to lie open to the inevitable Destruction of War, before her present Possessor be dethron'd; a Thing all *Europe* seem under an absolute Necessity to see done.

France, *Holland*, and *Britain* seem to be the only Nations, who, tho' they have lost the Blood, have yet escap'd the Ravages of Armies, and the Terrors of being the Seat of the War—having acted like Gladiators on a Stage, carry'd the War from home, and fought it upon the Frontiers of their Neighbours—— But the Blood spent by them all is incredible; *France* cannot have lost so few as a Million of Souls in this War, sacrific'd to the Ambition of a Tyrannical Prince, who has ruin'd his own Country to make himself dreadful to the World, and let out the Life-Blood of his People, to enable him to be the Incendiary of Mankind.

If you please to look at home, and tell me, of all the vast Numbers *Britain* sends abroad every Year, how many can you

remember ever came home again?—— What will you say, that when the Army King *William* brought home at the End of the first War was disbanded, it was made appear to the King, that above 570000 Men had been list'd in his Service since the Beginning of that War in the three Kingdoms——In the Article of Blood, never talk of the War having been kept abroad, if we have not bled at home, we have bled abroad——Our Country has furnish'd the Men, whose Bones lie now bury'd all over the World in these last twenty Years Broils.

Thus no Part has been free, but the *North*, *Prussia*, *Denmark*, *Brunswick*, the Circle of the *Lower Saxony*; these have been the Neuters of this War——But say not they are free—for their Hour is at hand——

And if GOD in his Mercy to the rest of *Europe* does not prevent it, the fiercest and most outrageous War, that ever that Part of the World knew, is just now going to break out, and which will immediately spread it self over all that Part which seem'd to have been spar'd before. This is between the *Dane*, the *Prussian*, the *Pole* or *Saxon*, the *Muscovite* on one hand——

The *Swede*, and the Duke of *Holstein* on the other—— If this prove a War, it will be very bloody without doubt: The *Swede*'s, who some People think are crush'd, will appear not so low as they imagine; They are a brave, a warlike, a powerful, and if made desperate, a terrible Nation. There are four Powers said to be leagu'd against them——and you will find them all little enough; nay, perhaps the *Swede* may deal with them all, especially if he should—but give one of them a Blow——and there will appear a great Deal of Difference between the *Swedes* invading another, and defending his own.

And here by the way, I cannot but note, that the Confederates are concern'd in Interest, even in the highest manner, to prevent this War in the *North*, on two Accounts; 1. As the crushing the *Swede*, however it may seem pleasant to some, may be fatal to the Protestant Interest in *Europe* a great many ways——And the Balance of the *North* is as absolutely necessary to be preserv'd, as the Ballance of the

South——

Sonsb— 2. As the breaking out of the War on that side, if it be pursu'd heartily, will certainly cause several Princes to recall their Troops from the Assistance of the Confederates—let the Success go which way it will: For Example, if the *Swede* should be crush'd and run down, the *Holsteiners*, the Troops of *Wolfenbottle*, and of *Lunenburgh*, and perhaps of *Hannover*, will be in Danger of being wanted, since the House of *Lunenburgh* are oblig'd by the Treaty of *Plessendal*, and the Treaty of *Münster*, to protect the Dutchy of *Holstein* and the City of *Hamburg* against the *Dane*.

Again, if the King of *Sweden* should be victorious, if the *Dane*, or the *Prussian*, or the *Pole*, should be press'd or push'd by the *Swede*—The *Saxon* Troops in *Flanders*, the *Prussians* in *Italy*, and the *Danes* also, must go home of Course.

But this by the way— I am pursuing the Enquiry after Blood; Let any Man, that knows the Fury of these *Northern* People, how they fight, how their former Wars have been carry'd on, how they are now exasperated against one another, and let them imagine, whether their Meeting is not likely to be very bloody!

FAMINE is our next Enquiry. I have given you a sad Account, tho' a short one, of the Progress of this terrible Visitor in *Scotland*— Indeed the dismal Account is such, and reflects so much upon *England*, who gave their Horses that Year more Corn than would have sav'd all *Scotland* from Misery—and refus'd to let the *Scots* have it for their Money; that I care not to enter into it—Near 20000 People perish'd by that Disaster—and the Misery of the rest is not to be express'd—

Ireland, a rich and fruitful Soil, would hardly suffer Famine for Want of the Earth's Produce; but it is not a Debate here, whether Famine by Sterility of Soil, or by Accidents of War, was the Case?— Nor how Famine came among them, but whether they were visited with it or no— And for this let the Siege of *London-Derry* testify, where the Misery of the faithful Inhabitants of that little City can hardly be express'd— To this may be added

the Distresses of the Inhabitants in some Parts of *Ireland*, by the Plunderings of the *Rapparees* on one hand, King *James's* Men on another, and our own People on the third; in which Case, if we may believe Eye-Witnesses, Thousands of poor People perish'd of meer Want and Hunger.

I need not go about to prove, that *France* has this last Year suffer'd all Manner of Extremities of Hunger and Want. Indeed I am not forward to believe all that our printed Accounts say of those Things— nor need I take Half of them into the Account; for if One half shall be allow'd to be true in *France*, that has been reported, the Misery and Famine in that Country has been extream; and no Part of *Europe* has, in the Memory of Man, suffer'd so general a Distress in that Kind.

Portugal and *Spain* have for these three Years past been supported from *England* and *France*, or else they had felt the Severity of a real Famine; and yet at best we have been told melancholly Stories of the Misery of the People of *Catalonia* and *Andalusia*.

The Ravages of the *Swedes* ad so ruin'd *Saxony*, the general Ruin of *Poland*, and the *Muscovite* ruining his own Frontiers to prevent the *Swedes* getting Subsistence there, brought such Desolation upon those Parts, that even in the City of *Warsaw*, and in several Parts of the *Lesser Poland*, the Poor perish'd for Want of Bread— As to *Holland*— I am loth to let all I know of the Want the *Dutch* now feel, be known— But sure, if we prohibit the exporting Corn to them at this time, when *France* will not, if it could; *Germany* cannot, if it would supply them; when *Flanders* wants Corn from them, and they dare not send to the *Baltick* for Corn; I say, if we with-hold Corn from them— they must suffer a terrible Famine this very Winter— And even as it is, the Price Corn bears in *Holland* and *Zealand* at this time, would be a Famine to any People in the World but to them— But that industrious People are able to buy Corn when others cannot, and to live when other Nations would starve.